



The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale



“He is Risen!”

‘Church in the Home’

Edition 6

Sunday April 26th – Saturday May 2nd

From the Vicarage

With 32 years of classroom experience behind me, many assume that I must have developed a skill in remembering student’s names. Nothing could be further from the truth. I was dreadful at it! I could never allow my mark book to be seen by anyone else as it was full of nicknames and cartoons to help me remember the identity of those working in front of me. The reality is that if we’re not using the name of someone regularly or spending time with them regularly we can swiftly begin to lose memory of essential information. My mind can also be thrown into confusion when someone appears in a place where I wasn’t expecting to see them. Perhaps this is a part of what was taking place on the road to Emmaus?

Many of us are currently using the technology of video calls to speak with family and friends and Sarah and I are grateful for its ability to ensure our faces and voices are still recognised by the most recent edition to our family, 4 month old Daisy. I know when Sarah is engaged in just such a communication by the high pitched squeals that carry through the walls!

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews states that we must: ‘.. *consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another,..*’ Heb 10v24f

In these current days of Covid19 ‘Lockdown’ we are placed in a position where we can no longer meet together as we used to, but it’s very important that physical isolation does not need lead to ‘spiritual isolation’. That is why we have placed such importance on ensuring as many of you as possible are receiving our ‘Church in the Home’ publications so that we might continue in our worship together and remember the Lord’s voice and presence in our lives.

Scripture has always placed great emphasis on worship in the home and it’s important that this continues. Indeed, I know that many of you are discovering new ways of doing so in these days of physical distancing. Light a candle, read the Bible, listen to the Bible, share in worship and prayer with others on the radio, television and the internet, use music, use art, use poetry. Families – take a fresh look at prayer through what Helen Wood has for you on this week’s service on our website. Keep sharing Bible stories with your children and keep praying together, particularly before sleep to help settle any worries they may have in these unusual days. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to have a gallery of creative work from all ages to rejoice in when this is all over? I love it when I’m given a picture created by one of our younger folks. It always finds a place of significance in the home where Sarah and I can continue to smile over it.

We can all have our own ‘Emmaus experiences’; times when we might feel distant from the Lord, so let’s ‘*spur one another on*’ in new ways, make that phone call, write that card, remember before God those who are in need whilst rejoicing in what we have around us and taking comfort from the Emmaus account, that the Lord is always near us!



There is a Redeemer

Music from Terri

This rousing traditional hymn shouts thanks from the rooftops for the precious gift of Jesus, God's own son. We are saved not by perishable things such as silver or gold but by the precious blood of Christ, and the hymn speaks of the "Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Oh, for sinners slain" Give thanks every day for the sacrifice made and live secure in the knowledge that his spirit remains here among us giving strength and guidance until his work on earth is done. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ml3RMvJiqJU>

There is a redeemer
Jesus, God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God,
Messiah, Holy One

When I stand in Glory
I will see His face
And there I'll serve my King forever
In that Holy Place

Jesus my redeemer
Name above all names
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah
Oh, for sinners slain

*Thank you, oh my father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit
'Til the work on Earth is done*

*Thank you, oh my father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit
'Til the work on Earth is done*

Open the eyes of our hearts Lord

We can often lose sight of God, wrapped up as we are in our own daily lives. In these times of doubt and confusion we may fail to see him, right there with us, guiding us, holding us up when we would otherwise fall. "Open the eyes of our hearts Lord" that we may see him clearly. There are parallels between the disciples on the road to Emmaus who failed to recognise Jesus walking with them and us now in these testing times. We need to focus on him, see him high and lifted up, shining in the light of his glory and we need to sing holy, holy, holy, sing loudly, sing from your hearts!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idQ1n3cdgfo>

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see you high and lifted up
Shining in the light of your glory
Lord, pour out your power and love
As we sing Holy, Holy, Holy

To see you high and lifted up
Shining in the light of your glory
Lord, pour out your power and love
As we sing Holy, Holy, Holy

*Holy, Holy, Holy,
You are Holy, Holy Holy
Holy, Holy, Holy
I want to see you*



Sunday April 26th Bible Readings:

Acts 2.14a, 36-41; Psalm 116.1-7; 1Peter 1.17-23; Luke 24.13-35

Click on this site, type in the reading you want and then listen to David Suchet read it to you.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/suchet/nivuk/Gen.1>

Reflection

Two people, probably husband and wife, walk along the road home to Emmaus. They set out for the annual Passover feast in Jerusalem full of hope for the future. No doubt they were looking forward to meeting Jesus again, as well as joining up with family and friends. But now the world around them has become disturbed, a frightening place. They are haunted by shocking news of a horrible death. Their minds are full of questions they cannot answer. Some rumours of

better news are circulating but how do they know who to trust? At least they can share their troubled thoughts with each other. The exercise of walking may be helping to relieve their nervous anxiety.

We today are living under the shadow of this unseen virus that has turned our lives upside down. We can easily identify with the people in this familiar story, so beautifully told by Luke. Luke shaped it, however, to be read by Christian congregations that would gather for worship in specific places on the first day of the week.

In those gatherings they would sing the Jewish psalms and have readings from parts of the Old Testament scriptures and maybe from a letter written by one of the apostles. (These were being collected, copied and circulated.) Appointed elders would explain how God has always been at work in human history. 'The pattern of God's dealings with Abraham, Moses and the whole Jewish nation had prepared the way and pointed forward to a Messiah,' they would say. 'We knew that already, but it took Jesus to show us that the Messiah would not simply lead the people to a national victory. He had to suffer and die, to take on himself the weight of human sin and be the sacrifice offered for the whole world.'

As well as these weighty themes, someone would tell one of the stories from the life of Jesus. But this was not just a history lesson. These worshippers believed that Jesus was alive, risen from the dead in a new embodied form. Though unseen, he would be there speaking to them now in their hearts in the way he spoke in his old body to crowds in Galilee and Judea. So they expected to hear something that warmed their hearts with love or touched on areas of guilt and challenged them to reach out for forgiveness and strength to change.

Then would come the moment when the presiding elder would pray the thanksgiving prayer and they would share bread and wine, taking into themselves the sacrifice offered once for all on the cross and 'feeding on it in [their] hearts by faith with thanksgiving'.

That pattern of Christian worship became well established early on and has carried on down 20 centuries. It takes place every week or so in our local churches - or it did before lockdown. Now we are isolated in our homes, cut off from physical contact with each other. Many of us miss the sacrament of bread and wine very much. But this is precisely where the story of the road to Emmaus gives us comfort and hope. For although Luke has shaped his reporting of it to be resonant of Christian worship of his readers, the story itself is about an event where the risen Lord Jesus draws alongside two people on their journey and enters their home with them. Christ is not confined to the Church worshipping in consecrated buildings. Christ is alive, able and longing to meet with us often at any point in our daily life.

What does that mean in practical terms? It is important to remember we are all different. The way we pray and experience the presence of God is unique to us. It may be very different for our closest friends. An experienced prayer guide once said, 'Pray as you can and not as you can't.' Some can easily picture Jesus present beside them and believe that a thought that comes into their mind is something he is saying to them. Others don't think in pictures at all but find from time to time that words from the Bible hidden in their memory suddenly come alive as if God is speaking directly through those words. What we can be sure of is this: Christ is longing to meet us far more than we allow.

So in these days of lockdown for some (and extreme busyness for others), let's beware of locking ourselves down by reaching too quickly for the nearest distraction. Let us keep looking and listening for the living Christ so we too can say, 'Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?'

Rev Vera Sinton

Prayers

Unless the Lord had given me help, I would soon have dwelt in the silence of death. When I said, 'My foot is slipping', your unfailing love, Lord, supported me. When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy. Psalm 94 17-19



Dear Lord and loving heavenly father, we thank you for the comfort of your presence with us at this time, when certainty and normality seem far away. Thank you too that we know we are never alone; even when the darkness of the night closes in and the shadows lurk nearby, because you are there with us, bringing both comfort and strength, just as you have done to the generations before us. We ask that you strengthen us, restore us and inspire us with your love to face the days ahead so that we may be salt and light to our community.

We pray for those within our family and community who help and sustain us. Help us to always act with kindness to those around us. When we need to accept help, enable us to do so with grace and humility. We lift our children to you, those who are still young and those who are grown up. Father you will know that we never stop worrying about them irrespective of their age. Keep them safe and secure in this uncertain world and may they turn to you in times of trouble.

Thank you that we live in a beautiful part of the world and in a community that cares. We thank you that we are able to take our daily exercise in your wonderful countryside. Thank you for the many in our community who have stepped forward to help out in this time of crisis, whether it is to make masks and scrubs, to return to work in the NHS or to shop for others. Thank you for our health and care workers and all those in the service sectors who are still working hard to ensure our safety and our food supply.

We pray too Father for the sick, the lonely, the bereaved, the elderly and the vulnerable. There are many who are suffering at this time, whether it is coronavirus related or with other conditions. Others are suffering from anxiety related illnesses which have been exacerbated by the isolation and the fear of the virus. Father we bring before you all these people and ask that you comfort them and help them to feel your presence and to know you are with them. We know that many people have died in the last few weeks in our country, all of whom will be missed by friends and relatives. We ask that you give those who grieve strength to deal with their loss during the coming weeks and help them to find some peace.

Guide our Government as they seek to deal with the virus. We ask for wisdom and clarity for the scientists and experts co-ordinating the response and patience for the population as we wait at home for things to pass. Father we ask that as the country seeks to find ways to combat this illness that we don't overlook the vulnerable and the weak, or marginalise sections of our society.

We pray for our own leaders in the church nationally and locally as they seek to lead us in these times, using new ways and new technologies. We particularly ask your blessing on Dave and Sarah as they continue to be busy making sure that Your word and our actions meet as many people's needs as possible.

Even in such times as these, there are still things for which we are glad. Help us not to overlook these but be grateful for them. We think of the beautiful sunshine, the spring flowers, the new life in the fields around us, and the deepening of the fellowship we have with one another. Father you know what lies ahead for us. You know our fears and our needs. Fill us with your peace and help us not to worry about tomorrow but to rely on you. We bring these things to you through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

Steph Durrant

Merciful Father; accept these prayers, for the sake of your son, our saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Family Together - In 'Lockdown'

Worship

Prayer

Stories

Activities



Come and
join us

Sunday April 26th 10:30am

www.upperwensleydalechurch.co.uk

O P E N P A N T R Y

This is a much used service at present: BIG thank you to all who contribute but supplies are now **low**: If you can contribute please place items in the plastic crate in the Vicarage drive: Hawes. *'Every little helps'* – Many Thanks

TV
Radio

Let's keep worship on the BBC:

Tune into some of the services on TV and Radio.

Sunday: Radio 4 Sunday Worship 8:10 – 8:50am 'Exploring Emmaus'

Sunday: Radio 3 Choral Evensong 3:00 – 4pm

Wednesday: Choral Evensong 3:30 – 4:30pm

Sunday BBC1 Worship 10:45 – 11:15 Hereford Cathedral

Songs of Praise 1:15 – 1:50



Inspirational Message from
Bear Grylls

Soldier, Survival expert, Adventurer, Author, Broadcaster

Disciple of Christ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJmAMIU-wNU&feature=share>